

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please replace the presently pending claims with the following claims:

A1
1. (Amended) A herbal chip comprising a plastic slide, a coating on the plastic slide which binds fractions or components obtained from herbs to said slide in independently allocated microarrays on the coating, wherein said coating comprises a polyfunctional aldehyde coupled to said slide to which is coupled a compound which provides at least one NH_2 group, to which is bound a polyfunctional epoxide compound comprising at least one epoxide for coupling to said amino group(s) and at least one epoxide for coupling to an herbal fraction or component. *[which is coupled]*

2. The herbal chip as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fractions or components obtained from herbs are homogeneous or heterogeneous.

3. The herbal chip as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fractions or components obtained from herbs are obtained by fractionating an extract of the herb by applying HPLC.

4. The herbal chip as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fractions or components obtained from herbs contain secondary metabolites of a herb.

5. The herbal chip as claimed in claim 1, wherein the material of the plastic slide is a polycarbonate, or a homopolymer or copolymer that is made of one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of ethylene, haloethylene, propylene, halopropylene, acrylate, methacrylate, butadiene, acrylonitrile, norbornene and styrene.

6. The herbal chip as claimed in claim 5, wherein the plastic slide is made of a polymer of styrene.

7. The herbal chip as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plastic slide has two cavity chambers.

Please cancel claim 8.

9. (Amended) The herbal chip as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyfunctional aldehyde is glutaldehyde.

A2 10. (Amended) The herbal chip as claimed in claim 1, wherein the NH_2 group(s)-providing compound is NH_4OH .

Please cancel claims 11-13.

14. (Amended) The herbal chip as claimed in claim 1, wherein the epoxy group(s) which couple to the herb components or fractions react with the free hydroxyl, sulfhydryl or amino groups.

A3 15. (Amended) The herbal chip as claimed in claim 1, wherein the epoxide compound contains a long chemical chain of 6 to 24 carbon atoms.

16. (Amended) A method of producing the herbal chip as claimed in claim 1, comprising the step of coupling the herbal fractions or components to said epoxide contained in said coating for coupling to an herbal fraction or component.

17. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the plastic slide has two cavity chambers and the samples are spotted or immobilized on the surface of the cavity chambers.

A4 18. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said coupling is preceded by the steps of treating the slide with said polyfunctional aldehyde followed by soaking in a solution of said NH_2 -providing compound, and treating with said polyfunctional epoxide compound.

19. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polyfunctional aldehyde is glutaldehyde.

20. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the NH_2 -providing precursor is NH_4OH .

A5 21. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the polyfunctional epoxide compound contains at least one epoxy group at each of its ends.

22. A method of using the herbal chip as claimed in claim 1 for screening for active ingredients contained in herbs, comprising the steps of loading a labeled probe(s)-containing solution onto the herbal chip for conducting hybridization, and imaging and identifying the gridded samples that react with or bind to the labeled probe.

23. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the labeled probe(s)-containing solution is homogeneous or heterogeneous.

24. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the label is a dye or a radioactive material.